

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 4 FIREFIGHTING

PRIMARY AGENCIES: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Washington State Patrol

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Washington State Conservation Commission
Washington State Department of Corrections
Washington State Department of Ecology
Washington State Office of Financial Management
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Military Department
Emergency Management Division
National Guard
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Washington State Department of Transportation

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to establish policies for the effective coordination to detect and suppress wildland, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with, a catastrophic earthquake, other significant natural disasters, or other events requiring fire response.

B. Scope

Firefighting involves managing and coordinating firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on state and private lands, and providing personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of state and local jurisdictions involved in rural and urban firefighting operations.

The specific recovery actions following an emergency or disaster will be determined by the event.

II. POLICIES

- A. The processes and procedures established in state and federal mobilization guides shall be followed in responding to an emergency or disaster.
- B. Coordination with, and support of, state and local jurisdiction fire suppression organizations shall be accomplished through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Emergency Operations Manager, in cooperation with state and local jurisdiction fire marshal offices, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD), or other appropriate state agencies operating under the Incident Command System (ICS).

- C. National support for forest fires shall be accomplished through the Northwest Coordination Center (NWC) in Portland, Oregon, who will coordinate with the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) located at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho.
- D. The Adjutant General has the responsibility to mobilize jurisdictions under Chapter 38.54 RCW, State Fire Services Mobilization. The State Fire Marshall is the fire resources coordinator when fire mobilization is authorized.
- E. Per Chapter 76.04 RCW, DNR has the responsibility for wildland fire suppression on 12.4 million acres of state and privately-owned forest land. The DNR, Resource Protection Division, has the authority to respond to wildland fire suppression efforts, as well as, the responsibility to respond to requests from other agencies for assistance for non-fire emergencies or disasters.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Under the best of circumstances, the management of a large firefighting operation is complex, often involving hundreds of people and several different agencies and local jurisdictions. Fires resulting from or independent of, but coincident with, a catastrophic earthquake or other disaster will place extraordinary demands on available resources and logistics support systems.

A significant natural or technological event may result in many urban, rural, and wildland fires. Ignition sources, of little concern under normal conditions, could cause hundreds of fires during and after an earthquake. The damage potential from fires in urban areas during and after a major earthquake exceeds that of all other causes. Urban fire departments not incapacitated by an earthquake will be totally committed to fires in urban areas. Numerous fires are anticipated in rural and wildland settings as well. Under the worst conditions, these fires will have the potential to spread rapidly, cause extensive damage, and pose a serious threat to life, property, and the environment. Normally available firefighting resources will be difficult to obtain and utilize because of massive disruption of communications, transportation, utilities, and water systems.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. Urban, rural, and wildland fires may result from or occur coincidentally with an earthquake or as the result of another significant event. Large, damaging fires could occur.
2. Land-line communications will be interrupted. Radio communications will be relied upon heavily, necessitating the early ordering of radio systems from the NICC, as well as depending on state and local agencies radio systems.
3. Wheeled-vehicle access will be hampered by such occurrences as bridge failures and landslides, making conventional travel to the fire location extremely difficult or impossible. Aerial attack by airtankers, helicopters,

and smokejumpers may be essential in these situations. Helicopters will be scarce resources and useable airports will be congested.

4. Agencies that commonly support large fire suppression operations, including the military and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will receive urgent requests from non-fire-related agencies for personnel, equipment, and supplies. Many of the resources commonly available for use in fighting large wildfires will be scarce or unavailable.
5. Wildland firefighting forces may be diverted to assist in the control of fires in rural and urban areas because of more urgent threats to life, property, and the environment and due to shortages of urban firefighters required to respond to other types of emergencies.
6. Efficient and effective mutual aid among the various local jurisdictions, state, and federal fire agencies requires the use of the ICS together with compatible firefighting equipment and communications.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The state DNR will manage and coordinate state wildland firefighting activities. The Washington State Patrol shall serve as the state fire resources coordinator when the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* is invoked. This will be accomplished by mobilizing firefighting resources in support of state and local jurisdiction wildland firefighting agencies. Established firefighting and support organizations, processes, and procedures, as listed in the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* and State and Federal Mobilization Guides will be used in support of firefighting activities. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs lies primarily with local jurisdiction Incident Commanders in coordination with the state and local jurisdiction Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).
2. Requests for firefighting assistance and resources will be transmitted from the DNR Emergency Coordination Center (DNR ECC) to the appropriate regional-level fire coordination center, and as applicable to the NICC at Boise, Idaho, for national response and logistics support when regional resources are inadequate. The NICC will coordinate with the National Fire Suppression Liaison Officer in the event of national-level shortages or unavailability of needed resources.
3. Actual firefighting operations will be managed using the ICS. Situation and damage assessment information will be transmitted through established fire suppression intelligence channels and directly between the national-level and regional-level ECCs.
4. In the case of a statewide emergency, the DNR Emergency Operations Manager, or designee, will represent the department at the state EOC.

This individual will be the link to the DNR ECC and will coordinate department resources needed for the statewide emergency.

5. The DNR ECC will be operational on a 24-hour basis for the duration of the incident or as needed, providing broad policy and coordination support to affected agencies and personnel in accordance with the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan and state and federal Mobilization Guides.
6. Staff from the WSP will support the allocation of fire service resources during mobilization for fires or emergencies and disasters. These activities will be coordinated by the WSP Emergency Mobilization Section Commander, or designee. Selected personnel will staff the state EOC during response and recovery activities.

B. Organization

The firefighting activities of the state DNR will be accomplished by the seven regional offices located in Chehalis, Colville, Sedro Woolley, Forks, Enumclaw, Ellensburg, and Castle Rock. These activities will be supported by the headquarters elements in Olympia.

Firefighting resource mobilization will be accomplished by the Washington State Patrol.

C. Procedures

In an emergency or disaster, the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* will be implemented.

D. Mitigation Activities

1. Joint Primary Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Natural Resources

None.

b. Washington State Patrol

None.

2. Support Agencies

The Washington State Departments of Corrections, Ecology, Office of Financial Management, Fish and Wildlife, Military Department, Transportation, Conservation Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission

None.

E. Preparedness Activities

1. Joint Primary Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Natural Resources

- (1) Coordinates ESF 4, Firefighting, of the state *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP).
- (2) Trains department personnel to serve as State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinators in the state EOC.
- (3) Trains DNR personnel and other agency resources in wildland firefighting using established standards.

b. Washington State Patrol

Trains WSP personnel to serve as State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinators in the state EOC.

2. Support Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Corrections

Provides minimum-security inmate personnel for sandbagging, evacuation assistance, firefighting crews, and other emergency or disaster work.

b. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Trains Enforcement Officers to assist in traffic control, communications, and/or other logistical assignments.

c. Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

- (1) Maintains 24-hour alert and warning system.
- (2) Develops and maintains Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for managing response and recovery activities.
- (3) Maintains the state EOC in a fully-operational status.

F. Response Activities

1. Joint Primary Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Natural Resources

- (1) Tasks personnel, as necessary, to accomplish support responsibilities.

- (2) Assumes full responsibility for suppression of wildfires burning on or threatening state and private forest lands.
- (3) Provides and coordinates firefighting assistance to other land management organizations and to local jurisdiction fire organizations, as requested, under the terms of existing agreements and the department's CEMP.
- (4) Arranges for direct liaison between fire chiefs and incident commanders in the designated area to coordinate requests for firefighting assistance in structural or industrial fire protection operations.
- (5) Provides liaison officers to the state EOC and DNR's Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)
- (6) Provides logistical support as requested to the WSP when the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* is activated.

b. Washington State Patrol

- (1) Serves as the WSP Resources Coordinator when the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* is activated.
- (2) Provides staff to the state EOC to coordinate fire activities.

2. Support Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Corrections

- (1) Provides minimum-security inmate personnel for sandbagging, evacuation assistance, firefighting crews, and other emergency or disaster work.
- (2) Provides shelter for emergency or disaster victims at correction facilities, as possible.
- (3) Provides public information officer support to the Office of the Governor, the state EMD, the state EOC, or the lead state response agency during response and recovery activities.
- (4) Provides personnel and equipment to assist the Washington State Patrol with special assignments.
- (5) Coordinates the documentation and reporting of emergency disaster-related expenditures to qualify for state or federal reimbursement.

- (6) Coordinates Project Worksheet Team activities at affected facilities.

b. Washington State Department of Ecology

- (1) Provides information regarding water withdrawal, clearing of roads or other erosion producing activities, and air monitoring. These activities may involve obtaining a permit.
- (2) Provides 24-hour response to any oil or hazardous substance occurrence.

c. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

- (1) Provides Enforcement Officers to assist with traffic control, communications, or other logistical assignments.
- (2) Provides available water tank trucks at selected sites for potable water, as requested.
- (3) Provides available reconnaissance aircraft and transport, as requested.
- (4) Provides available road repair equipment, flat bed trucks, and 4-wheel drive vehicles, as requested.

d. Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

- (1) Provides information to The Adjutant General, in coordination with other agencies, with which to make a decision on the implementation of the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan*.
- (2) Assigns appropriate mission and resource numbers for incident and resource tracking purposes pursuant to Chapters 38.52 and 38.54 RCW in coordination with the WSP.
- (3) Assists local jurisdictions by providing resource logistics, which is the procurement, maintenance, distribution, and replacement of personnel and equipment in coordination with DNR.
- (4) Supports affected local jurisdictions in tracking incident costs and in maintaining administrative records.
- (5) Coordinates orders for resources, including aircraft, from federal and other states' wildland firefighting agencies.
- (6) Provides resource logistics, which is the procurement, maintenance, distribution, and replacement of personnel and equipment.

- (7) Provides liaison officers to the DNR ECC.

e. Washington State Military Department, National Guard

- (1) Provides liaison to the state EOC to coordinate National Guard military support resources, as requested.
- (2) Activates the National Guard Joint Operations Center for the deployment of military support resources.
- (3) Establishes military liaison with the ICC when military support resources are deployed.
- (4) Makes recommendations to The Adjutant General on the use of National Guard resources.
- (5) Provide Military Support to Civil Authorities consistent with ESF 20.

f. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

- (1) Provides equipment and personnel, as available, to assist in fire suppression activities.
- (2) Provides facilities, as available, to support fire suppression crews.

g. Washington State Department of Transportation

- (1) Provides equipment operators with Class A Commercial Drivers Licenses, as available.
- (2) Provides equipment mechanics, as available.
- (3) Provides radio technicians and operators, as available.
- (4) Provides aircraft for personnel and equipment transport as available.
- (5) Provides access to statewide fueling facilities.
- (6) Provides miscellaneous vehicles, equipment, and facilities, as available.

G. Recovery Activities

1. Joint Primary Agencies

a. Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Contributes to the incident after-action report.

b. Washington State Patrol

Contributes to the incident after-action report.

2. Support Agencies

a. Washington State Departments of Corrections, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, and the Parks and Recreation Commission

Contributes to the incident after-action report.

b. Washington State Conservation Commission

Provides outreach to the agricultural community through local conservation districts.

c. Washington State Office of Financial Management

(1) Coordinates the requests for funding for mitigation activities following a fire.

(2) Distributes Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds, if made available.

(3) Coordinates and prioritizes fire-related budget requests and awards of expenses.

d. Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division

Coordinates the preparation of the incident after-action report.

e. Washington State Military Department, National Guard

Contributes to the incident after-action report.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Joint Primary Agencies

1. Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Manages and coordinates state wildland firefighting activities.

2. Washington State Patrol

Resources requested by the IC through their representative that meets the requirements of *the Washington State Fire Service Resource Mobilization Plan*.

B. Supporting Agencies

The Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington State Departments of Corrections, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Military Department, Transportation, and the Office of Financial Management

Supports state wildland firefighting activities consistent with this ESF and the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan*.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Joint primary and support agencies will provide the required personnel, facilities, and equipment to support their activities.
- B. Local jurisdiction, regional, and national fire suppression resources may be required. The specific resources available are listed in the appropriate mobilization guides. Support organizations exist at each level of government to provide these assets.

VII. REFERENCES

- A. National Interagency and State Mobilization Guides.
- B. Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan.
- C. Interagency Agreement GCA-2336 between Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Washington State Department of Transportation.

VIII. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 4.